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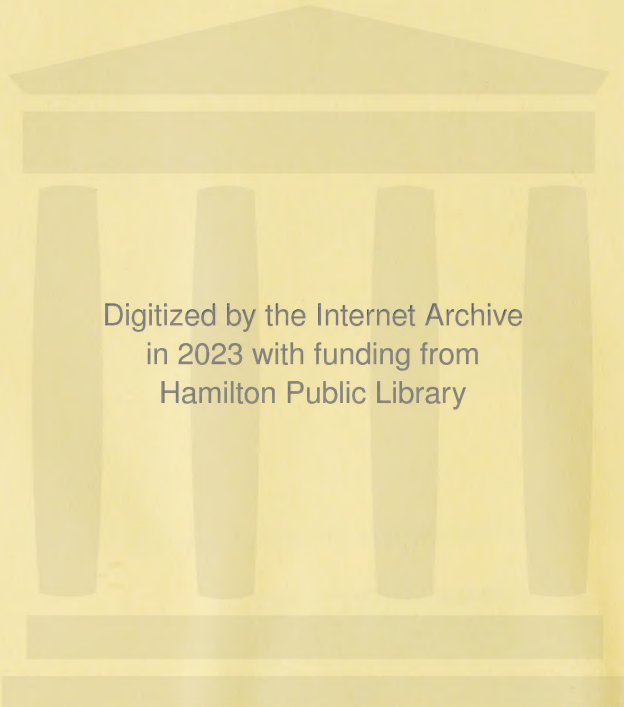


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United States.  
Report of the Committee of  
Ways and Means on the  
petition of Joseph W. Page.  
1814.

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# REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS,

ON THE

PETITION OF JOSEPH W. PAGE.

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JANUARY 28, 1814.

Read and committed to a committee of the whole house on Thursday next.

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WASHINGTON CITY:

PRINTED BY ROGER C. WEIGHTMAN.

1814.





## REPORT.

The committee of ways and means, to whom was referred the petition of Joseph W. Page of Charleston,

## REPORT:

That the petitioner prays to be relieved from a penalty incurred as security in an embargo bond for Bernard Laffon, master of the brig Bellona.

The Bellona sailed from Charleston for Baltimore; was captured on her passage by the British frigate Garland, and carried into the port of Kingston in Jamaica. There being no legal ground for the capture, the vessel and cargo were restored to the owners who were compelled to discharge and dispose of the cargo and not permitted to take the same from the island. The captain, Bernard Laffon, took in a cargo in Jamaica, and sailed for Baltimore, the original port of destination. The petitioner having heard of the arrival of the Bellona at Baltimore, gave information to the collector at Charleston. The cargo however was discharged, and the Bellona sailed for France as a cartel, before steps were taken to arrest the captain, Bernard Laffon. In the mean time the petitioner was imprisoned at the suit of the United States, and remained in that situation until the return of the Bellona. Having heard of her arrival at New York he was released from his imprisonment by the secretary of the treasury, and succeeded in procuring the arrest of his principal, Bernard Laffon. Ber-



nard Laffon was afterwards admitted to bail, and from the peculiar situation of the district judge the cause has not yet been decided.

The principal having been surrendered and given new security, and it appearing that the conduct of the petitioner has been such as to free him from any suspicion of an intentional violation of the law, the committee submit the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petitioner is reasonable and ought to be granted.











